



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Samford Rural District

For the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

IPSWICH:

WATSON BROS., WESTGATE STREET.



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OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
OF THE
SAMFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
SAMFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year 1925, and in which is included the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	45,000
Population —Census, 1921	...	...	14,465
Estimated 1925	...	...	14,430
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	3,094
Rateable Value	...	...	£81,087
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£288

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, &c.—With the exception of a few seafaring people, the bulk of the inhabitants are dependent upon agriculture for a living. There are no manufactories or industries employing a large number of hands, and, including the Xylonite Works at Cattawade, there is no business carried on which can be said to be injurious to health. There is a Naval Training Establishment at Shotley and the Greenwich Royal Naval School intend to transfer their establishment to Holbrook in the near future.

The Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital is available to the inhabitants, but patients are now expected to contribute towards their maintenance, according to their means.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals.

(1) **TUBERCULOSIS.**—Ipswich Sanatorium.

Ipswich Isolation Hospital.

Normanton Hospital.

Merivale Sanatorium.

East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital

(Surgical).

All situate outside the District.

(2) **MATERNITY.**—Nil.

(3) **CHILDREN.**—Nil.

(4) **SMALL POX.**—The County Council have an arrangement with the Ipswich Corporation whereby cases of Small Pox can be admitted to the Small Pox Hospital, Foxhall Road, Ipswich.

(5) **FEVER.**—The Tattingstone Isolation Hospital situated near the centre of the District, with accommodation for 17 cases was available up to September, 1925. Your Council then decided however, to close it down and to send Infectious Cases to the Bosmere and Claydon Hospital, some six miles beyond the boundary of their area.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

One part time Medical Officer of Health and one whole time Sanitary Inspector, both employed by the Local Authority.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

There are five District Nursing Associations in the District :— East Bergholt, Brantham, Copdock, Hintlesham and Chelmondiston. All had grants from the County Council during the year, but there is no co-ordination between them and the Local Authority.

MIDWIVES. There are eight Midwives practising in the District and the County Council have subsidised them through the District Nursing Associations to the following extent :— East Bergholt £38, Brantham £40, Copdock £40, Hintlesham £40, Chelmondiston and Woolverstone £40.

There is no Institutional provision in the District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children other than that at the Tattingstone Workhouse.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases an ambulance is obtained from the East Suffolk County Council.

(b) For non-infectious cases and accidents the St. John's Motor Ambulance at Ipswich is available.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are none in the District.

Vital Statistics.

Cause of Death.				M.	F.
All causes	..	..	..	65	57
Measles	..	..	..	—	1
Influenza	..	..	..	1	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	..	2	1
Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	1	2
Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	..	5	9
Diabetes	..	..	..	1	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	..	..	..	4	9
Heart disease	..	..	..	15	11
Arterio-sclerosis	..	..	..	4	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	3	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	5	2
Appendicitis and typhlitis	..	..	..	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	..	..	..	5	—
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	..	..	..	3	1
Suicide	..	..	..	1	—
Other deaths from violence	..	..	..	4	2
Other defined diseases	..	..	..	10	8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total	..	..	..	7	1
Total Births	..	..	..	101	116
Legitimate	...	..	..	94	111
Illegitimate	..	..	..	7	5
Population	{ For Birth Rate ..			14,430	
	{ „ Death „ ..			12,510	

Notifiable Diseases in 1925.

Disease.				Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	10	6	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	3	3	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	17	?	7
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	3	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	2	1	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	2	—	—

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

NEW CASES.						DEATHS.				
Age Periods.			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	Years	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	„	..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5	„	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	„	..	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	—
15	„	..	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
20	„	..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
25	„	..	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
35	„	..	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	„	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	„	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	and upwards		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..			13	7	9	3	1	1	0	2

N.B.—The Registrar General gives six Deaths from Tuberculosis in 1925, whilst the Local Registrar Returns only give four.

Survey Report for 1921-1925.

			YEAR.				
			1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate	..	..	18·5	16·5	16·5	15 3	15
Death Rate	..	..	9·7	13·7	10·2	11·6	9 7
Tuberculosis cases notified			21	14	30	23	32
Scarlet Fever cases notified			13	20	20	23	10
Scarlet Fever cases admitted to Hospital			9	11	15	19	6
Diphtheria cases notified			21	5	2	3	3
Diphtheria cases admitted to Hospital			12	2	2	2	3
Pneumonia cases notified			—	4	2	10	17
Number of New Houses ..			36	31	6	20	31

There is no proper system of SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL. For the most part it is disposed of by burying and burning, and the Sanitary Inspector regularly inspects the District to see that there are no accumulations of refuse.

		1920	1925
Privies	...	2260	2189
Pail Closets	...	650	800
W.C's.	...	193	236

FOOD INSPECTION. Slaughter Houses (6) and Bakehouses (6) are regularly inspected, and the requisite cleaning and lime-washings have been found to be carried out.

There are no schemes for Maternity and Child Welfare, or the treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases in the District.

During the past five years the health of the District has been distinctly good. There has been no serious epidemic of Influenza, and although 17 cases of Pneumonia were notified in 1925, it cannot be said that the occupation of the inhabitants was seriously interfered with by any disease during that period.

In 1922 a scheme for the Improved Drainage of 15 houses at SHOTLEY GATE was started. This drainage has been a grave menace to the health of the neighbourhood for many years. The sewerage is now treated by a septic tank and the overflow discharges into the River Stour between high and low water marks. The Ministry of Health, after holding a Public Enquiry on March 24th, 1924, gave their sanction to carry out the scheme.

Owing to a shortage of water in RAYDON village, a Ram Pump has been introduced and which raises 1,500 gallons per day to a height of about 90 feet above the Ram. The Ministry of Health held a Public Enquiry in December 1922, the scheme was completed in 1924, and the Ram Pump has been working continuously since March of that year, raising an ample supply of water at constant pressure.

In 1923 a well supplying thirteen houses in Church Street CHELMONDISTON, became useless. A scheme was prepared to supply those houses from the New Council Houses to Pin Mill Lane, by a 3 inch main from the Council's Main at a cost of £400. At a Parish Meeting this scheme was unanimously opposed and thereafter an alternative Scheme was prepared and adopted to provide and lay an 1¼ inch pipe from Council Houses to Church Street at a cost of £67.

Infectious Diseases, 1921—1924.

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Diphtheria	21	5	2	3
Scarlet Fever	13	20	20	23
Malaria	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	39	33	30	23
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	4	2	10
Puerperal Fever	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas	—	—	4	1

There are no noteworthy facts to be recorded as to the source of infection, but, owing to better organisation and management of the Tattingstone Isolation Hospital, it gradually became less difficult to persuade patients to go there, and so the spread of infection was frequently cut short when a serious epidemic looked imminent.

It is therefore with extreme regret that I have to record the decision of the Council to close down the Hospital at Tattingstone, and to send cases in future from this district to the Bosmere & Claydon Hospital. The Hospital at Tattingstone is practically in the centre of the district. Bosmere & Claydon Hospital is situated some six miles beyond the north corner of the district. In my opinion cases from the Shotley and Cattawade areas will have to undertake too long a journey,

and it will be very difficult to induce patients to go so far afield as Claydon. This is born out by the number of refusals I have had since the inception of the scheme. For the last two years of the regime at the Tattingstone Hospital the percentage of refusals to go there was 19 per cent. The percentage of refusals to go to Bosmere & Claydon so far is 66 per cent.

Further every Medical Practitioner in the District has signed a protest against this change, and have intimated to your Council that they will decline all responsibility if certain cases of Diphtheria are sent on such a long journey.

The Hospital at Tattingstone may not have been everything that could be desired, but patients did remarkably well there, and practically every one of them expressed their satisfaction with the care and attention they received. It also served the primary purpose of segregating Infectious Diseases, which cannot be said of Bosmere and Claydon.

I do not feel satisfied that the notification of Pneumonia serves any useful purpose, and in my opinion this arrangement might be cancelled.

Only one case of Malaria was notified during the five years.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners on demand at a specified chemist in Ipswich, and is generally made prompt use of, but in my opinion not always in sufficient dosage.

Bacteriological and Pathological examinations are made by the County Bacteriologist. The diagnosis of Tuberculosis and Diphtheria cases is confirmed by Bacteriological examination. Cases of Diphtheria are not discharged from the Infectious Hospital until two negative swab results are obtained.

The Sanitary Inspector immediately disinfects the house when a case of Infectious Disease is removed to the Hospital, and, where a case has been isolated at home, the house is disinfected in the same way when the medical attendant notifies the Inspector that it is ready for disinfection.

The Schick and Dick tests have not been utilised.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

School intimations of disease are utilized to verify medical notifications and where necessary to cleanse and disinfect verminous persons and their belongings.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. SLEIGH.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

The Water Supply to the district is chiefly drawn from shallow wells, varying from 10 ft. to 50 ft. in depth. The quality of the water is fairly good, but liable to contamination owing to refuse and excreta being buried in the surrounding soil.

The following Parishes are partly supplied from Waterworks :—

BRANTHAM.—Population, 960. Source of water from a deep well in the chalk formation and temporary hard. 200 dwelling-houses are supplied partly by stand pipes and partly direct to the houses. The supply is constant and well protected against any contamination.

SHOTLEY.—Population, 3124. Source of water supply from Ipswich Corporation Waterworks mains. The quality of the water is good and temporary hard from the chalk formation. The water is laid on from the main direct to 150 houses. The supply is constant and well protected against any contamination.

CHELMONDISTON.—During 1923 a well supplying 13 houses became dried up and useless at Chelmondiston. I prepared an estimate to provide and lay about 1000 ft. of 1½ inch galvanized iron pipes from the existing water main. The work was completed during 1924, and this main supplies 18 houses. There are now, including 9 houses previously supplied, 27 houses supplied.

The source is the same as for Shotley. The supply is constant and the houses are supplied partly by stand pipe taps and partly direct. Population, 801.

RAYDON.—About 30 houses were insufficiently supplied with water at Raydon, and, during 1923, a scheme was prepared to supply the above houses by means of a “B” Type Hydraulic Ram. The work was completed during 1924. The source of water supply is derived from a spring 90 ft. below and 1000 ft. from ground level near the church. There is a possibility of the water being slightly polluted by heavily-manured land in the vicinity. The water was certified as fit for domestic purposes by the County Analyst. The houses are supplied by stand pipes. The population is 412. The supply of water is constant.

SPROUGHTON.—Many inspections were made during this year of this parish owing to the suspected pollution of several of the wells. Samples of water from the wells were sent to the County Analyst, and in some cases the water was found to be diluted with sewage and unfit for any domestic purpose.

The houses in Lower and Upper Street are situated on an old and small area and much refuse has, no doubt, been buried on the sites; in one case a deep cesspool in close proximity to a well supplying several houses with drinking water had not needed emptying for many years. The well water on being analysed was found to be diluted with sewage.

As the cleaning out of the wells would have no effect, the Council instructed me to prepare a scheme to supply the village with good water. I prepared plans to provide a 6-inch bore well in the chalk on a site situated 100 ft. above Upper Street, in a field in Burstall Lane. A $3\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. *Crossley* Engine to be installed.

A 12,000 gallons reservoir exists and will be used to supply the village by 4-inch and 3-inch cast-iron mains direct to the houses. About 50 houses will be supplied.

Rivers and Streams.

There is no serious pollution of the Rivers or Streams in the District.

During 1925 the effluent from a New Sugar Beet Factory was discharged directly into the River Gipping. Settling sod areas have now been provided and the pollution stopped.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The chief means of drainage in the District are the provision of Cesspools for house drainage. These are emptied periodically on gardens, allotments and fields. A great deal of rain and surface water discharge into the roads and then to water courses. There are instances in which the house drainage discharge or is dumped into the streets or street drains, namely at Shotley and Sproughton.

SHOTLEY DRAINAGE. During 1923 a scheme was prepared to provide a Semi Septic Tank and Outfall Pipes to discharge into the tidal river at Shotley to drain 19 houses. This work is being proceeded with and partly carried out. Serious nuisance existed at the houses owing to Cesspools overflowing.

Closest Accommodation.

Privies	...	...	2189
Pail Closets	...	...	800
W.C's.	...	...	236

Many Privy Midden Type Closets are converted to the Pail or Earth Closet System. This method is generally resorted to if the Privy Middens are found very defective.

Scavenging.

The contents of Earth Closets, Privies, Cesspools and Ashpits are removed and buried on allotments, fields or gardens. This arrangement is fairly satisfactory.

Night Soil or Refuse is removed from the houses at Brantham, in the vicinity of the British Xylonite Company's Works.

Smoke Abatement.

It has not be found necessary to take action for any smoke nuisance.

Schools.

The County Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and it is deemed advisable to leave the Sanitary Administration of Schools practically entirely in his hands.

Housing.

I.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

EXTENT OF SHORTAGE.

(a) In all the Parishes houses are required.

EAST BERGHOLT.—Fifteen Houses are required.

BRANTHAM.—Fifteen Houses are required.

BENTLEY.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

BURSTALL.—Two Houses required.

BELSTEAD.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

ERWARTON. " " " "

CAPEL ST. MARY.—Four Houses required.

CHATTISHAM.—Two Houses required.

CHELMONDISTON.—Six Houses required.

COPDOCK.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

FRESTON. " " " "

HARKSTEAD.—Two Houses required.

HIGHAM.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

HINTLESHAM.—Two Houses required.

HOLBROOK.—Twelve Houses required.

HOLTON ST. MARY.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

SHELLEY.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

SHOTLEY.—Six Houses required.

SPROUGHTON.—Six Houses required.

STRATFORD ST. MARY.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

STUTTON.—Six Houses required.

TATTINGSTONE.—Six Houses required.

WASHBROOK.—No enquiries for houses, but no houses vacant.

WENHAM MAGNA. " " "

WENHAM PARVA. " " "

WHERSTEAD. " " "

WOOLVERSTONE. " " "

(b) Measures taken and contemplated to meet any shortage.

The Council are considering to build Ninety Houses where required in the District.

II.—OVERCROWDING.

WHERSTEAD	2 cases.	STUTTON	... 3 cases.
BURSTALL	1 case.	HARKSTEAD	1 „
SPROUGHTON	2 cases.	EAST BERGHOLT	1 „
HOLBROOK	4 „	RAYDON	... 3 cases.

- (1) CAUSES. Insufficient Bedroom accommodation.
- (2) Measures contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.
The Council are considering to provide New Houses.
- (3) The above cases are the principal ones found during 1925.

III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (1) (a) The General standard of Houses in the District are fairly good, but there exists a good many poor old and small properties.
- (b) General Character of defects found to exist in unfit Houses.

Defective roofs, floors, walls, privies and drains.

As a rule the defects are due to the lack of proper supervision and management by the owners.

- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under:—

(a) The Public Health Acts.

(b) The Housing Acts.

Informal letters to repair or abate nuisances are sent to owners or occupiers followed up if necessary by Formal Notices.

- (3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness under the Public Health or Housing Acts, 1925

In many instances the Properties are very old and not worth much money being spent on them. The rents for the above class of property are usually low.

- (4) There is generally a separate privy or water closet to each house, and kept in a fairly good condition, and if excreta is allowed to accumulate notice is served to remove it from the site and bury. The tenants of houses bury all refuse.

There is no shortage of water. Houses are supplied chiefly from wells, and analysis taken where contamination is suspected.

IV.—BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

- (1) Existing Bye-Laws work satisfactory.
- (2) There is apparently no need for revision of existing Bye-Laws.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—The Milk produced is of good and wholesome quality, and arrangements for the supply and distribution in the district adequate.

Three applications for Registration were received during 1925, and Certificates issued.

There are now on the Register 46 persons registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

The regulation Limewashing has been fairly well carried out.

In the following cases Limewashing was ordered and carried out :—

Raydon	...	1
Washbrook	...	1
Bentley	...	1

New floors and drainage were carried out to cowsheds at Raydon.

The Sanitary condition of Bakehouses and other premises where food is prepared, manufactured, stored or exposed for sale have been inspected. The Bakehouses are kept clean and regularly limewashed.

At various periods of the year many persons are employed to pick peas, turnip tops, etc. I am not sure that the Sanitary arrangements for these people are always desirable.

**Particulars re facilities available in the area for the
Cleansing of Verminous Persons and their belongings,
and for the disinfection of premises and articles which
have been exposed to infection.**

Verminous cases reported to me have been removed to Tattingstone Union for treatment after which the Houses were Fumigated and Limewashed.

There is no specially provided disinfectants stated for Verminous or Infectious cases.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises. (1).	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	2		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	20		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—		
Total	22		

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1).	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ..				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	2	2		

H. WATLING,

Sanitary Inspector.

